NO:28), SLMAFTAAV ($NS4_{1789-1797}$; SEQ ID NO:34), LLFNILGGWV ($NS4_{1807-1816}$; SEQ ID NO:35), or ILDSFDPLV ($NS5_{2252-2260}$; SEQ ID NO:42).

23. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide has less than 20 amino acids.

24. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide has from 8 to 12 amino acids.

25. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide has 9 or 10 amino acids.

26. The isolated peptide of claim 23, 24, or 25, wherein the isolated peptide has the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from ADLMGYIPLV ($Core_{131-140}$; SEQ ID NO:1).

27. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide is ADLMGYIPLV ($Core_{131-140}$; SEQ ID NO:1).

28. The isolated peptide of claim 23, 24, or 25, wherein the isolated peptide has the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from DLMGYIPLV ($Core_{132-140}$; SEQ ID NO:54).

29. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide is DLMGYIPLV ($Core_{132-140}$; SEQ ID NO:54).

30. The isolated peptide of claim 23, 24, or 25, wherein the isolated peptide has the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from LLALLSCLTV ($Core_{178-187}$; SEQ ID NO:2).

31. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide is LLALLSCLTV ($Core_{178-187}$; SEQ ID NO:2).

32. The isolated peptide of claim 23, 24, or 25, wherein the isolated peptide has the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from QLRRHIDLLV ($E1_{257-266}$; SEQ ID NO:3).

33. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide is QLRRHIDLLV ($E1_{257-266}$; SEQ ID NO:3).

34. The isolated peptide of claim 23, 24, or 25, wherein the isolated peptide has the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from LLCPAGHAV ($NS3_{1169-1177}$; SEQ ID NO:26).

35. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide is LLCPAGHAV ($NS3_{1169-1177}$; SEQ ID NO:26).

36. The isolated peptide of claim 23, 24, or 25, wherein the isolated peptide has the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from KLVALGINAV ($NS3_{1406-1415}$; SEQ ID NO:28).

37. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide is KLVALGINAV ($NS3_{1406-1415}$; SEQ ID NO:28).

38. The isolated peptide of claim 23, 24, or 25, wherein the isolated peptide has the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from SLMAFTAAV ($NS4_{1789-1797}$; SEQ ID NO:34).

39. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide is SLMAFTAAV ($NS4_{1789-1797}$; SEQ ID NO:34).

40. The isolated peptide of claim 23, 24, or 25, wherein the isolated peptide has the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from LLFNILGGWV ($NS4_{1807-1816}$; SEQ ID NO:35)

41. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide is LLFNILGGWV ($NS4_{1807-1816}$; SEQ ID NO:35).

42. The isolated peptide of claim 23, 24, or 25, wherein the isolated peptide has the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from ILDSFDPLV ($NS5_{2252-2260}$; SEQ ID NO:42).

43. The isolated peptide of claim 22, wherein the isolated peptide is ILDSFDPLV ($NS5_{2252-2260}$; SEQ ID NO:42).

44. An immunogenic composition that induces an hepatitis C virus (HCV)-specific response in cytotoxic T lymphocytes comprising a peptide having a sequence that differs no more than about 20% from ADLMGYIPLV ($Core_{131-140}$; SEQ ID NO:1), DLMGYIPLV ($Core_{132-140}$; SEQ ID NO:54), LLALLSCLTV ($Core_{178-187}$; SEQ ID NO:2), QLRRHIDLLV ($E1_{257-266}$; SEQ ID NO:3), LLCPAGHAV ($NS3_{1169-1177}$; SEQ ID NO:26), KLVALGINAV ($NS3_{1406-1415}$; SEQ ID NO:28), SLMAFTAAV ($NS4_{1789-1797}$; SEQ ID NO:34), LLFNILGGWV ($NS4_{1807-1816}$; SEQ ID NO:35), or ILDSFDPLV ($NS5_{2252-2260}$; SEQ ID NO:42).

45. The immunogenic composition of claim 44, wherein the immunogenic composition further comprises a label selected from the group consisting of a radioactive label, an enzymatic label, and a fluorescent label.

46. The immunogenic composition of claim 44, wherein the immunogenic composition further comprises a solid matrix.

47. The immunogenic composition of claim 44, wherein the immunogenic composition further comprises a carrier molecule.

48. The immunogenic composition of claim 44, wherein the carrier molecule comprises a protein or an immunogenic lipid.

49. The immunogenic composition of claim 44, wherein the immunogenic composition further comprises a T-helper lymphocyte epitope.

50. The immunogenic composition of claim 44, wherein the immunogenic composition further comprises an additional peptide.

51. The immunogenic composition of claim 44, wherein the additional peptide has a sequence that differs no more than about 20% from KLVALGINAV ($NS3_{1406-1415}$; SEQ ID NO:28).

52. A method of stimulating a cytotoxic T-lymphocyte response to an hepatitis C viral immunogen, comprising contacting an HLA class I-restricted cytotoxic T lymphocyte with a composition comprising a peptide that induces an hepatitis C virus (HCV)-specific response in cytotoxic T lymphocytes having the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from ADLMGYIPLV ($Core_{131-140}$; SEQ ID NO:1), DLMGYIPLV ($Core_{132-140}$; SEQ ID NO:54), LLALLSCLTV ($Core_{178-187}$; SEQ ID NO:2), QLRRHIDLLV ($E1_{257-266}$; SEQ ID NO:3), LLCPAGHAV ($NS3_{1169-1177}$; SEQ ID NO:26), KLVALGINAV ($NS3_{1406-1415}$; SEQ ID NO:28), SLMAFTAAV ($NS4_{1789-1797}$; SEQ ID NO:34), LLFNILGGWV ($NS4_{1807-1816}$; SEQ ID NO:35), or ILDSFDPLV ($NS5_{2252-2260}$; SEQ ID NO:42).

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the contacting occurs in a mammal.

54. The method of claim 52, wherein the mammal is free of HCV disease, is a carrier of HCV, or is afflicted with HCV disease.

55. The method of claim 52, wherein the contacting occurs *in vitro*.

56. A method of detecting cytotoxic T cells that respond to a T cell epitope of hepatitis C virus (HCV), the method comprising the steps of: (a) preparing HLA class I-restricted cytotoxic T cells; (b) preparing HLA class I-matched and -mismatched target cells; (c) contacting separately matched and mismatched target cells with a composition comprising a peptide that induces an HCV-specific response in cytotoxic T lymphocytes having the sequence that differs no more than about 20% from ADLMGYIPLV ($Core_{131-140}$; SEQ ID NO:1), DLMGYIPLV ($Core_{132-140}$; SEQ ID NO:54); LLALLSCLTV ($Core_{178-187}$; SEQ ID NO:2), QLRRHIDLLV ($E1_{257-266}$; SEQ ID NO:3), LLCPAGHAV ($NS3_{1169-1177}$; SEQ ID NO:26), KLVALGINAV ($NS3_{1406-1415}$; SEQ ID NO:28), SLMAFTAAV ($NS4_{1789-1797}$; SEQ ID NO:34), LLFNILGGWV ($NS4_{1807-1816}$; SEQ ID NO:35), or ILDSFDPLV ($NS5_{2252-2260}$;